

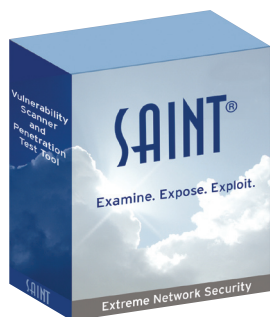
There have been few changes on the vulnerability assessment landscape, but the field is maturing, converging and gaining depth rapidly, says **Peter Stephenson**.

This was an interesting year for our vulnerability assessment Group Test. Last year, we separated application vulnerability assessment from network vulnerability assessment. This year, we grouped them together. This revealed a few interesting differences.

The primary difference, strategically, is that network vulnerability assessment tools are converging with penetration testing tools to provide both capabilities in the same tool. This is very important in my view because, properly used, penetration testing is an extension of vulnerability assessment. In a

proper network security assessment, one begins with the large view and progresses toward the specific. Two years ago, there were no solid combination tools. Last year, we had a couple that got pretty close. This year, we had solid entries that are really single security assessment tools.

Saint Suite



Vendor Saint
Price \$2,695 for a Class C
Contact www.saintcorporation.com

The SAINT scanner and penetration testing software is just what it says it is. This product does not only do vulnerability scanning across a vast number of platforms, as well as routers and basically anything else with an IP address, but it can also try to exploit and penetrate those vulnerabilities using a penetration tool. This provides an all-around overview of network vulnerabilities.

We installed the product in just minutes on our Fedora Core 6 machine and we were ready to go. The interface of the console is easy to use and intuitive to navigate. The only place where we found

ourselves a little confused was in creating the license key. The key is created by logging into the Saint website, filling out a form, and then saving the HTML page as a .key file and putting it into the Saint directory. This seems like an awfully lengthy process just for a license key.

However, the rest of the product is a solid performer. Setting up and running the scans is easy and scans can be customized in various ways. After a scan ran, we were able to go directly to a full set of pre-defined reports and report templates. From there, reports could be created quickly and easily.

Documentation is a single PDF document that provides information for the product from installation through using and configuring its features. While this document is well organized and easy to follow there are no real visuals or step-by-step instructions. It is written in paragraph format and at times it can be difficult to extract how to use the product.

Saint provides 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. phone and email technical support included in the base price. Customers can also get 24/7 support at

an additional cost of 10 percent of the product price. There is also a large support area on the website.

At a price just under \$2,700 for a full Class C license, we find this product to be an excellent value for the money. It provides not only vulnerability scanning, but also penetration testing, along with an easy-to-use console. We have watched this product evolve from a freeware product ages ago. If the documents were a bit more complete, this would have been a top contender.

SC MAGAZINE RATING

Features	★★★★★
Ease of use	★★★★★
Performance	★★★★★
Documentation	★★★☆☆
Support	★★★★★
Value for money	★★★★★
OVERALL RATING	★★★★★

Strengths Full-featured vulnerability scanning and penetration testing.

Weaknesses Documentation could be stronger, especially for a product of this type.

Verdict A top performer with a solid pedigree.



A top performer with a solid pedigree.

Peter Stephenson

SAINT®

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